

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus and method for removing stored energy from a storage phosphor screen in which a radiation image was recorded and then read by collecting stimulated emission from the phosphor sheet. The phosphor sheet is transported along a path in a first direction at a first speed into an erase area having at least one erasing light source. A portion of the phosphor sheet disposed within the erase area is exposed to the light source to affect erasure of the radiation image on the exposed portion of the phosphor sheet. Transport of the phosphor sheet is stopped when the trailing edge of the phosphor sheet enters the erase area and the phosphor sheet dwells within the erase area for a predetermined time period. The phosphor sheet is then transported along the path in a second direction at a second speed, and then transported along the path in the second direction at a third speed when the leading edge exits the erase area.